— Cost effectiveness.

Opending of Post Offices ta Tamil Nadu

39. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of post offices opened in Tamil Nadu during the financial year 1993-94.

(b) what is the total number of post offices opened throughout the country during the same period;

(c) how many proposals for opening of new post office$_s$ in Tamil Nadu are pending and by when these post offices will be opened; and

(d) how many post offices have been up-gfaded in Tamil Nadu during the said financial year and how many are proposed to be upgraded in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS *(SHSI* SUKH RAM): (a) The total number of Post Offices opened in Tamil Nadu during the year 1993-94 is 14.

(b) 801 Post Offices were opened in the country during the year 1993-94,

(c) Four such proposals are pending and they will be cleared subject to fidfil-meat of departmental norms and avail ability of resources.

(d) No Post Office was upgraded during this period. Two proposals for upgradation, of post offices are under consideration.

Deduction of salary for strike period

40. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: *Will* the Minister of COMMUNICA TIONS tee plealsed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department has deducted the salary for strike period, i.e. four days during the month of December, 1993 even though the strike was conducted with proper prior notice;

(b) what is the special reason for withholding the salary for four days while Government had agreed previously to pay the salary to the Postal employees of North Eastern States for forty days strike period; and

(c) whether Government would agree to pay the withheld salary amount to the Postal employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. It may, however be added that notice received from the employees' Federations/Associations proceeding on strike was in contraven ion of various provisions of the Industrial Dispute Act,
1947

(b) At the time of withdrawal of strike by Postal employees of North Eastern States in December, 1991, a written agreement was made with the staff side to adjust the strife period, by granting earned leave admissible as per rules. Therefore, strike period of postal employees of these, states was regulated accordingly.

(c) A proposal to regulate the strike period of the Postal Departmental Em ployees is under consideration of the Gov ernment.

Corruption in the undertakegs organi-satiens under Ministry of Communica tions

41. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 878 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd August, 1994 and state:

la) the names of the 34 officers together with the allegations made against diem; and

(b) whether Government have taken action against these officers by October 30, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir, the requisite information is given in the Annexure. (See Appendix 173, Annexure No. 2)

Social audit panel

42. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Social Audit Panel set up by the Communications Ministry has assailed the policy of privatisation of telecom services on the basis of im pressions gathered during its widespread interaction with consumers and telecom staff though-out the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tax evasion by soft drink manufacturers

43. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE he pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of tax evasions by leading soft drink manufacturers in the country have come to notice.

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to inspect the ledger of other multinational companies from time to time so that the cases of tax evasion could be detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance provided by UNDP

44. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of assistance provided by the UNDP during the last three years; and

(b) the details of various development programmes undertaken with such assistance, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a The quantum of assistance provided by UNDP during the last three years is a follows:—

Year	Amount in USS
1991	20,253,185
1992	18,367,246
1993	31,803,873

(b) UNDP technical assistance is pro vided according to the needs of variou sectors within the purview of differen Central Ministries/Departments. Th details of these projects located in diffe rent States are given in the Annexur (See Appendix 173. Annexure No. 3)

Reduction in import duty on aluminium industry

45. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWA MY: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have receive representations from the Indian Alum nium Industry to reduce import dutii 1 on raw material used for producing all minium products;

lb) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to assist the aluminium induustry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.] CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (and (b) Yes Sir. Government have ceceived certain representation for duction of import duty on aluminiu (to nil.